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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tatsuya OKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2833

Appln. No.: 09/934,468

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: August 23, 2001

For: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR HOUSING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. SHO 62-12321, which was published
on January 21, 1987; and

Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. HEI 11-252745, which was published
on September 17, 1999, along with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants further call to the Examiner's attention, the following documents which
were cited in a European Search Report issued on November 7, 2001 for counterpart
European Application No. EP 01 40 2123:

European Patent Application No. EP 1 026 287 to YAZAKI Corp. et al., which was
published on August 9, 2000, was cited as an A-Category document (i.e., document of

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technological background);

European Patent Application No. EP 1 018 783 to SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS, which was published on July 12, 2000, was cited as an A-Category document;

U.S. Patent No. 5,703,757 to HAYES et al., which issued on December 30, 1997, was cited as an A-Category document; and

European Patent Application No. EP 1 024 212, which was published on August 2, 2000, was cited as an A-Category document.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents, as well as a copy of the European Search Report, are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/921,909 to NAKAMURA, entitled "Electrical Connector Housing", which was filed on August 6, 2001; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/922,796 to A. ODA, entitled "Electrical Connector

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Housing”, which was filed on August 7, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Akihiro ODA

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November 27, 2001
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